IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying hover assistance on a display screen, comprising:

moving a pointer element to a position over a user interface element shown on the display screen in response to user manipulation of a pointing device;

while the pointer element is positioned over the user interface element, invoking a first hover element for display on the display screen; and

invoking a second hover element for display on the display screen after invoking the first hover element, and responsive to ~~while~~ the pointer element ~~continues~~ continuing to be positioned over the user interface element.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second hover element provides more detail regarding the user interface element relative to the first hover element.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the first and second hover elements simultaneously for a period of time and while the pointer element continues to be positioned over the user interface element.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing from display the first hover element upon invoking the second hover element.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

removing the pointer element from the position over the user interface element; and

removing from display at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element upon removing the pointer element.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element comprise help text specific to the user interface element.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element are displayed in a single text box.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises information that is generated using at least one of a flash, video, audio, extensible markup language (XML) and hypertext generation tool.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the second hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the second hover element, whichever occurs first.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the first hover element occurs after expiration of a first predefined period of time and invoking the second hover element occurs after expiration of a second predefined period of time, wherein the first predefined period of time is shorter than the second predefined period of time and wherein expiration of both the first predefined period of time and the second predefined period of time are calculated from the same event.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the same event is detecting the pointer element at the position over the user interface element.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein invoking the first hover element occurs after expiration of a first period of time and invoking the second hover element occurs in response to user input from an input device.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises at least one indication of an action to be performed by a user to cause execution of an associated operation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the associated operation is displaying a help window including detailed help specific to the user interface element.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising successively invoking a plurality of hover elements after invoking the second hover element.

18 (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein each successive hover element of the plurality of hover elements provides more detail regarding the user interface element relative to each previous hover element.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein invoking of each successive hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the successive hover element, whichever occurs first.

20-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed, performs an operation of displaying hover assistance on a display screen, the operation comprising:

detecting a pointer element at a position over a user interface element shown on the display screen;

while the pointer element is positioned over the user interface element, invoking a first hover element for display on the display screen; and

invoking a second hover element for display on the display screen after invoking the first hover element, and ~~while~~ responsive to the pointer element ~~continues~~ continuing to be positioned over the user interface element.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the second hover element provides more detail regarding the user interface element relative to the first hover element.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises:

displaying the first and second hover elements simultaneously for a period of time and while the pointer element continues to be positioned over the user interface element.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises:

removing from display the first hover element upon invoking the second hover element.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises:

detecting removal of the pointer element from the position over the user interface element; and

removing from display at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element upon detecting the removal of the pointer element.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element comprise help text specific to the user interface element.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the first hover element and the second hover element are displayed in a single text box.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises information that is generated using at least one of a flash, video, audio, extensible markup language (XML) and hypertext generation tool.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein invoking the second hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the second hover element, whichever occurs first.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein invoking the first hover element occurs after expiration of a first predefined period of time and invoking the second hover element occurs after expiration of a

second predefined period of time, wherein the first predefined period of time is shorter than the second predefined period of time and wherein expiration of both the first predefined period of time and the second predefined period of time are calculated from the same event.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 33, wherein the same event is detecting the pointer element at the position over the user interface element.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein invoking the first hover element occurs after expiration of a first period of time and invoking the second hover element occurs in response to receiving user input from an input device.

36-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein at least one of the first hover element and the second hover element comprises at least one indication of an action to be performed by a user to cause execution of an associated operation.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the associated operation is displaying a help window including detailed help specific to the user interface element.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises:

successively invoking a plurality of hover elements after invoking the second hover element.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein each successive hover element of the plurality of hover elements provides

more detail regarding the user interface element relative to each previous hover element.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein invoking of each successive hover element occurs after one of (i) expiration of a predefined period of time and (ii) a user input command to display the successive hover element, whichever occurs first.

43. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a display screen;

a graphical user interface displayable on the display screen;

an input device for controlling movement of a pointer element over graphical user interface elements of the graphical user interface; and

a hover assistance manager configured for:

detecting a pointer element at a position over a user interface element shown on the display screen;

while the pointer element is positioned over the user interface element, invoking a first hover element for display on the display screen; and

invoking a second hover element for display on the display screen after invoking the first hover element, and ~~while~~ responsive to the pointer element ~~continues~~ continuing to be positioned over the user interface element.